

I claim:

1. A slide system for microscopy comprising:
  - a planar slide base;
  - a planar cover slip; and
  - a recess disposed in one of the slide base and the cover slip, the recess having a sufficient amount of adhesive therein to adhere the cover slip to the slide base when the cover slip is mounted on the slide base.
2. A slide system according to claim 1, wherein the slide base and the cover slip each have a pre-selected thickness such that when the slide system is assembled it has a pre-selected overall thickness.
3. A slide system according to claim 1, wherein the recess is disposed on the slide base in the form of a continuous channel which surrounds a sample area on the slide base.
4. A slide system according to claim 3, wherein the adhesive continuously surrounds the sample area such that when the cover slip is mounted to the slide base, the cover slip and adhesive define a sealed sample area inhibiting migration of sample material out of the sealed sample area and inhibiting migration of contaminants into the sealed sample area.
5. A slide system according to claim 4, including an expansion volume formed in at least one of the cover slip and slide base, the expansion volume surrounding the sample area.
6. A slide system according to claim 5, wherein the recess surrounds the expansion volume.
7. A slide system according to claim 6, including at least one active element surrounding the expansion volume and being between the adhesive and the expansion volume within the sealed sample area when the slide system is assembled.

8. A slide system according to claim 7, including two expansion volumes in the slide base, the active element being between the outermost of the two expansion volumes and the adhesive when the slide system is assembled.
9. A slide system according to claim 7, wherein the active agent is an antibiotic.
10. A slide system according to claim 7, wherein the active agent is an antiseptic.
11. A slide system according to claim 3, including at least one test material applied to at least one of the slide base and the cover slip.
12. A slide system according to claim 11, wherein the test material comprises a stain.
13. A slide system according to claim 12, wherein the stain is biohazardous.
14. A slide system for microscopy, comprising:
  - a cover slip;
  - a slide base, the slide base having
    - an expansion volume formed therein which surrounds a sample area,and
  - a recess formed on the slide base in the form of a continuous channel which surrounds the expansion volume; and
  - adhesive disposed in the recess in sufficient amount to adhere the cover slip to the slide base when the cover slip is mounted on the slide base.
15. A slide system according to claim 14, wherein the slide base and the cover slip each have a pre-selected thickness such that when the slide system is assembled it has a pre-selected overall thickness.
16. A slide system according to claim 14, wherein the adhesive continuously surrounds the sample area such that when the cover slip is mounted to the slide base, the cover slip and adhesive define a sealed sample area inhibiting migration of sample

material out of the sealed sample area and inhibiting migration of contaminants into the sealed sample area.

17. A method of preparing a slide for microscopy, comprising:

placing a sample material on a sample area of a slide base, said sample area being surrounded by a recess formed in the slide base which continuously surrounds the sample area;

placing adhesive material in said recess to a sufficient extent to continuously surround said sample area and adhere a cover slip to the slide base;

locating a planar cover slip over said slide base to engage said adhesive material; and

pressing said planar cover slip and said slide base to form a sealed sample area inhibiting sample material from leaving said sealed sample area and inhibiting contaminants from entering said sealed sample area.